PUBLIC MEETING IN RE THE MATTER OF:	
TEMPE'S ORBIT NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCULATOR PROGRAM: JUPITER	

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Tempe, Arizona April 8, 2008 5:30 p.m.

PREPARED BY:

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PREPARED FOR:

THE CITY OF TEMPE

(Original)



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-Page 2 -1 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, taken before DOREEN C. BORGMANN, RMR, CRR, and a 2 Certified Reporter in and for the County of Maricopa, 3 State of Arizona, and KATHERINE McNALLY, Certified 4 Transcriber, Certificate No. CET**D-323, at Tempe Public 5 Library, Basement, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona, 6 on the 8th day of April, 2008 commencing at the hour of 7 5:30 p.m. of the said day. 9 10 CITY OF TEMPE STAFF: 11 GREG JORDAN, Transit Administrator SUE TAAFFE 12 AMANDA NELSON CARLOS DE LEON 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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PROCEEDINGS

(Whereupon, opening remarks were made.)
(Whereupon, the following public comments

were made:)

MR. JORDAN: Can everyone hear me okay? Carlos de Leon? Where is Carlos? I'm going to need somebody to just keep time. We want to try to keep this to about five minutes per person. Carlos was going to do that for us, but maybe Amanda can help us. So about five minutes per person, and we'll just kind of casually time everyone to make sure we have enough time for everyone who wanted to speak to get in the record. Be aware that Doreen will be making your comments in the record at this point. If you would, please state your full name and your address and spell the last name.

MS. JENNIE SYLVESTER: My name is Jennie
Sylvester, S-Y-L-V-E-S-T-E-R. Or Virginia. I live at
528 East Del Rio in Tempe. So I live right off of
College, so I'm in the College Avenue district.

I love the Orbit. I'm a full-time employee of ASU. I've lived in Tempe since 1980. I actually do have a very expensive parking decal at ASU. But I have only driven twice since January 15 by myself. And I've driven twice or maybe three times with my husband as a car-pooler because he's also full-time. Otherwise, I

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don't think between us we've driven more than a handful of times.

It's been wonderful. I think that the buses are usually full when I -- or almost full. The kids that are riding to McKemy in the morning would be on there on their bikes, or their parents can be dropping them off. I'm a bike rider. I've almost -- the parents that drive around McKemy and Broadmor are crazy drivers.

But the Orbit's been wonderful. We've ridden it downtown to go to dinner. I just wish there was a movie theater downtown. But we go to dinner. I had a conference, an out-of-town conference, with 40 visiting librarians a week and a half ago. They were all put up at the Mission Palms -- I mean at the Twin Palms. I had them take the Orbit to my house. Imagine if all those people were in rental cars driving up and down College. It's been great.

And as -- somewhere on College a mom got on the bus with her four children and came here to the library. They had their library books, and, you know, they could have been driving. And as we came around, it was, like, 20 to 6:00. The traffic on Southern was awful. So I figured that 10 or 15 or 12 of us that were in that

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Orbit, including the mom with four kids, we would have all been in cars driving either to this meeting or coming to the library or commuting or something.

Imagine all those cars off the road. I don't know the numbers of the cars on College, but, to me, it seems like there's less traffic on College.

But I think it's great. And I don't want to take my full five minutes. Thanks.

MR. JORDAN: Okay. Yes.

MR. TOM ZEWORSKI: Hi. My name's Tom Zeworski. Last name is Z -- as in zebra -- E-W-O-R-S-K-I, common spelling. I live at the corner of College and Del Rio. And so my wife and I, we see a lot of the traffic, the traffic issues. We've lived there for, like, 14 years now. Traffic on College has been a problem during that whole period of time.

We have been supporters of the bus before it started. We are still supporters of the bus. We took it down here as well. And hello, Neighbor. We got to meet many of our neighbors because of the bus. We got to meet them when we hosted kind of an Orbit kickoff at our house back in -- I believe it was the end of January.

It's been a great thing. I think it has slowed traffic down on College Avenue. Again, I have to

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live with it, because I live right on the corner of College. It slowed it down. People seem to be respectful of my property when they're waiting for the bus. They're cordial. They're friendly. It has, I think, created a sense of community and enhanced, frankly, my experience as a resident in Tempe. I think it's a fantastic thing.

I'm always bragging about it to people I work with. Unfortunately, I work in Chandler. But on those instances that we have used it to go downtown -- and we use it to go downtown, whether it's to dinner or just to kind of walk around -- it's been a fantastic thing.

People had expressed concerns about people parking in the neighborhoods. I have yet to see that. I don't think it's happening. And I've got to wonder why someone would park in our neighborhoods when they've got pretty secure parking right here at the library where they're not going to be ticketed. Their vehicle isn't going to be damaged, probably, for the most part. And it's just been a fantastic thing.

I think it has decreased traffic on College. And, again, I think people are generally slowing down. The bus drivers are very loved, I think, from what I can tell. I've seen any number of different

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people, people from the neighborhood, people going to school, people going to work, young, old. You name it. It's a great cross-section of the community who uses it. People are upbeat. They're friendly.

You know, one time we did see a person who was inebriated in the back of the bus. But, frankly, I'd rather have him in the back of the bus than behind the wheel. And so sometimes you get what you get. But I think overall, we are incredibly in support of this particular bus, and I hope it -- I sure hope it continues. Thanks.

MR. RICK VULLO: Hi. My name is Rick Vullo, and I used to live at 2034 South College. V -- like Victor -- U-L-L-O. I'm in opposition to the bus. I've been in opposition to the bus for a long time. I'm still in opposition to the bus. Actually bought a house on another street because I don't want to see the bus go up and down College Avenue.

My house is right on College. I have a planter that's on College that is being used as a bus stop now. That's where everybody likes to sit to wait for the bus. We were told that there wasn't going to be bus stops, but there's little placard cards all along College, and I find it very ironic there's one right outside Presidential Estates, and that's where a lot of

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people gather because that's where the placard is. And that gentleman who developed that actually wrote a letter in opposition to the bus. It's funny how that placard showed up right in front of his development of million dollars homes.

I think it's certainly has decreased traffic. I think that's a good thing. All the slides that were shown on how much money it was going to save, and this gentleman asked how much is it going to cost. \$10 million it's costing somebody to save us 600,000 in gas. I'm not a mathematician, but that doesn't make any sense to me.

And I have seen a big difference in the amount of people that walk up and down College. Not as many people walk up and down College because they're in the bus. I think everybody can use a little more exercise. Move the bus out to one of these other streets. There's enough traffic on College Avenue. It's bringing a lot more people into our neighborhood. That, frankly, we don't need.

Again, the property that I have on College has been vandalized. I don't know if it was people from the bus. It certainly has a lot more litter and people hanging out around my property. With five kids, I made the decision to move off of the street for the safety of

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my kids and my family.

I'm in opposition. I think we need to move it out. I took the bus myself. It's very ironic that it goes through a lot of neighborhoods that maybe are not as expensive homes as some of these other areas, and it kind of almost purposely goes down these streets that have lower property values, and then it goes right down College because, I guess, that's the thoroughfare that Tempe wants. And I'm not going to stay quiet. I hate the idea. I hate the bus. And, hopefully, we can push it off to a different street. Thank you. No clapping.

MS. CAROLYN KIRKHAM: My name is Carolyn Kirkham, K-I-R-K-H-A-M. I live at 3129 South Orm, which is one block east of College, just north of Southern. And as a result of riding the Orbit, I've met some of my neighbors, like Jennie, who I see somewhat regularly coming back from ASU.

I ride the bus quite regularly. I wish I could say that I rode it as often as she does, but I have a need to go to meetings off site and need a car, etcetera, so I can't do that. But I have been able to use it to attend plays at Gammage, to go to events at Gammage Music Hall. I've taken the Orbit up into the College and Fifth Street area so that I can hike up a mountain. I think it's fabulous. I've taken it to the

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grocery store, to the library. It's a wonderful thing. I wish that we'd had this opportunity years ago.

I enjoy being able to talk to people on the bus. I see that there is a certain amount of camaraderie among those who ride it. We've always got a story about what's happening here and there. It's a good thing. It's increasing our feelings towards our neighbors, and I think that's a very positive step.

MR. ROB SEMBRAT: My name is Rob Sembrat,

S-E-M-B-R-A-T. And I live at 200 East Southern Avenue.

It's just down at Chesapeake Condominiums, really close.

College Avenue borders the Jupiter route. I just rode it recently. And, you know, I think it's fantastic. I mean, I'm a strong proponent for any sort of improvement of public transportation. I tend to ride the bicycle a lot myself. I just rode from Scottsdale Community

College back down to Tempe today on the bicycle.

So just as a comment, I think some time ago some of the concern with the Jupiter route on College is that it would add to the congestion because you'd have these buses going up and down this road that weren't there before. But, you know, quite honestly, I had a hard time finding an Orbit bus unless I was looking for it. So I don't think it comes any more frequently than -- I mean I just don't think it causes any issues on

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that road. I think every 15 minutes is good for it.

And, again, I don't think it contributes to any congestion. I don't think it contributes to any problems on the road. I think it's a good addition. I just don't see any issue with it. I just wanted to make that comment.

MR. GABRIEL JUDKINS: Hi. My name is Gabriel Judkins, J-U-D-K-I-N-S. I live at 2611 South Dorsey Lane, which is right on the Jupiter route over by Meyer Park. And so I'm not really part of the College Ave. area. But I did want to express my support the Jupiter route.

Our family's really benefited from it. We have two young kids, my wife and I, and we both work, and we hand off responsibility watching the kids. And we utilize the Jupiter to come here to the library. I have a nine-month-old in tow on sling and a two-year-old as well. And we really appreciate it because we have one car, and this allows us to not purchase a second car and to not make as many trips by car. We also utilize it to go to the pharmacy.

I work at ASU and I use it to drive to ASU on the Jupiter route there. And we're looking forward to utilizing it to go downtown to Mill Ave. and enjoy that.

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Some suggestions that I have for the route is that we consider driving the Jupiter route a little bit later. I'd like to be able to see a movie downtown. There is a theater on Mill Avenue, and you can find it there. But I think the 10:00 o'clock ending is a little too soon to catch it, just before the end of the movie.

Also living next to Meyer Park and Meyer School, I'm very aware of concerns about parking and kids getting on and off and across the street safely.

And I understand the reason for the "no stop" zones. We love living next to the school. No problems at all.

The school kids are much better behaved than I was when I was that age. But I would like to add a comment that I believe that no stop zones should end right at the corner with Bishop on Dorsey and Bishop. And I think that's appropriate.

Again, I'm in strong support of it. I'd be really sad to see that go. My family wouldn't benefit from it as much. And I know there's many, many other benefits in the savings in gas that accrue to other people, even those that maybe don't live as close to the route as I do and utilize it as much. Thank you.

MS. TERI PETERS: My name is Teri Peters, last name, P-E-T-E-R-S. I live at 2323 South College, right across the street from McKemy.

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I usually ride the Jupiter bus mostly at night because I do work up on Baseline and McClintock, and sometimes I don't get off work until, like, 8:00 o'clock at night. So I do take one of the regular buses down and then get on the Orbit bus. It's a just a lot safer because it does get me within at least a block of my apartment as opposed to going down Mill to Broadmor and have to walk, like, three or four blocks through the school, which sometimes doesn't have enough lights.

So I do think it is a good addition. I have lived here for a long time, and I'm very glad that they do have it, and I hope they do keep at least the College Avenue part.

MR. FRED SAMUELSON: My name is Fred Samuelson, S-A-M-U-E-L-S-O-N. My wife and I live at 1136 East Fairmont Drive. In two days it will be 41 years we've lived in that house.

We've found the Jupiter route to be very beneficial to us. We enjoy the music program at ASU. And it's just a couple of blocks to come over here, get on the bus, go up to ASU, listen to the program, and ride the reverse bus back here. Leave our car here. So we are supporters of the system and of the route in particular. We wouldn't particularly care whether it goes up College or Mill as long as it gets us from here

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at the library to ASU.

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I do have two technical comments, though. One is the second on the question of the ending time. The last time you can board the back bus to get from Gammage to here is 9:56 p.m. We haven't had a problem with that yet. But it seems to me some of the programs at Gammage may extend to a point that you wouldn't be able to make it out unless you left the program early.

The other is when there is a large program at Gammage and it's time to egress that parking lot, they shut off the eastbound lane of Gammage Parkway, which is the road that's on the north side of Gammage. And if you ride from here to Gammage or the music building, you get off on the north side of that street. If you're going to come back, you get on the back version of the route on the south side of the street. But in many cases when there's a large program being dismissed at Gammage, they shut off the flow going east. And if riders don't know that, they can stand on that south side all night, and they're not going to have a Jupiter bus come by. So there needs to be some method to alert people who are getting off in that area that the route may not go back along the same street, and they'll either have to go onto Mill to catch the bus, or they'll have to go the other way and get on College to

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get the bus and come back.

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We nearly fell into that trap ourselves one night, and it finally occurred to us that, hey, they're not going to come down this route. We've got to go somewhere else to catch the bus.

MS. CAROL BERG: My name is Carol Berg, and I'm at 2126 South Ventura. I realize that my property is not as close to the bus line as some, but I catch the bus right close to Broadmor Grade School.

My experiences with the bus has been wonderful. I've done the whole entire route just to see where it went and did the library and the senior center. And being a senior citizen, this is important not only to me, but to my entire neighborhood, which is about 80 percent of senior citizens. And some are handicapped.

We had a homeowners' association -- or not a formal homeowners' association, but a neighborhood get-together -- on Sunday night, and we talked about the bus system. Everyone was highly supportive. It was a hundred percent riding of all the people who have attended, and there was at least 25 people there that had attended. One of our attendees is blind and with a dog. He finds it easier to use the Orbit system rather than using the city system on Rural because there's less traffic on College than on Rural for crossing the street

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for his particular purposes.

We're all looking forward to the Light Rail and hope that we can expand our system.

If there is a monetary fare that's going to be used with the Orbit bus system, I don't -- I don't think that's outrageous. I think it would be -- if people feel that's important, I think that could be incorporated if it's a money issue.

The only individual who complained about the bus system was a bike rider. And he said he was angry because the Orbit bus was slower than he cared to ride his bike. I am also a bike rider, and I'm sick and tired of being ridden over by those aggressive bike riders. So, anyway, there's always a little contrary person here.

But, nevertheless, on the whole, everyone in our neighborhood -- I realize we're a little way from the line, but we do find it a real positive experience. Thank you.

MR. JAMES FOARD: My name is James Foard,

F-O-A-R-D. I live at 533 East Del Rio Drive. And I spoke at the City Council meeting in favor of Jupiter.

I was strongly in favor of it, and I'm even stronger tonight. Because at the time I spoke as a bike rider who would use it occasionally. And then guite

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unexpectedly, December 21, I had what I was told was minor surgery. Didn't feel so minor. But that made bike riding rather difficult for me. And it has become just really essential for me to get to ASU and back. And I have used it regularly.

I find it not only convenient, but a delightful part of the day. I meet people. I meet neighbors I didn't know beforehand as well as many that I know but hardly ever see. And we have lots of fun conversations. And the drivers are friendly and nice. And it's just so much more pleasant than driving a car. So I, for one, would be in a very difficult situation, or at least I'd have to drive every day, if I did not have Jupiter.

It is heavily used, particularly during certain times of the day. There have been a couple of times I've wondered am I going to be the 24th person or something and be unable to get on the bus.

And I would also like to echo people who have spoken before me in saying that I'd like to extend the hours. I've found it particularly useful when I've had to go in very early or go downtown early for breakfast or stay late at night.

And, finally, I'd say I'm retiring in

June -- yes -- and will join the people here who plan to

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use it for all kinds of things.

One other story about it. And it actually involved Mars. But I used Jupiter to come down here, get on Mars, and went to the eye doctor to get my eyes dilated. And then instead of having to have somebody drive me to the eye doctor and drive me home -- I still had to have somebody drive me home, but it just made things much easier.

And I've found that to be the case in many small ways. But I think it's proven to be an even better service than I imagined. And it's just kind of fun. And so I strongly support it, and I think it should continue and even be expanded, particularly the hours if at all possible. Thank you.

MR. RICARDO HAUSER: Hello. My name is Ricardo Hauser, H-A-U-S-E-R. I live at 636 East La Jolla. And two words about Orbit. Love it. I love Orbit. You go down to Tempe, just take it in front of your house. It goes down to Tempe. Have lunch, library, go to the neighbor's. Just really love it. It's sad. It goes through a block too fast sometimes. But I just love the Orbit. And that's it.

MS. SHANNON LOGAN: My name's Shannon Logan, L-O-G-A-N. And I live at 1243 East Verlea Drive. We live a couple of blocks away from Meyers School off of

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Dorsey.

And I'm strongly in favor of the Orbit.

We're a family of six. We have one car. And it is so beneficial. I have two younger kids. My husband and I both work. And I can get the two younger ones to school. But to know that the Orbit is coming to the end of my street, picking up my two older girls, dropping them off at McClintock High School, and then bringing them home at the end of the day is a wonderful feeling.

My husband takes it to go downtown to Mill Avenue with the kids. My older girls go to Tempe Marketplace to the library. So I'm strongly, strongly in favor of it. Thank you.

MR. STEVE DEMPSEY: My name's Steve Dempsey. My wife Laura and I live at 2309 South El Camino Circle.

That's just north of Broadmor, off east of College.

When we first found the Orbit Jupiter was going to run a block from our house, we were delighted. Couldn't wait for it to start. We became riders on the first day it operated. We've gone downtown to Mill Avenue out to dinner in the evening. It's usually how we take it. Sometimes on the weekend. We've had family visit who may have rented a car, but we were able to tell them, "There's a bus you can get on just a block from our house, go downtown, library, shopping." It was

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a great benefit.

My wife Laura is looking forward to connecting with the Light Rail when that opens in December. And overall, we're just looking forward to continuing to use the Jupiter. Thanks a lot.

MS. MARY ANN CLARK: My name is Mary Ann Clark.

I live at 2132 East Broadmor, but it's the Broadmor off of the Price Road and off of Country Club Way. I've been a resident of Tempe about 40 years. So there's been three generations of our family raised in this little town at one time. It's not a little town anymore.

I was always in favor of the Orbit when it was in the planning stage. And now that it's a reality, I'm even more in favor of it. And I think if you did a little study of demographics in age groups, perhaps the people that will use it the most will be the senior citizens, who at one time will have to give up their driving, but this goes to where we want to go, and then the young, the very young, and especially teenagers who are not driving. And so any time we can take cars off of the road, I'm in favor of it.

MR. PAUL KENT: Hi. I'm Paul Kent, K-E-N-T, 23

East 15th Street, just north of the railroad tracks off of College.

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And I have two takes on this. One is personal. My wife and I love the Orbit. We have two small kids, two and four. They absolutely love it.

They know back and forward and Jupiter, Mars, and all that stuff. They love to take it down to Cookies and get ice cream. And tonight I actually am a Commissioner on the Development Review Commission, although I wasn't needed tonight because I'm an alternate. So I took the Orbit there to downtown Tempe. Then I wasn't needed, so I got back on the Orbit and came back down here so I could attend this meeting. So I use it quite frequently.

I'm also the Chair of the University Park
Neighborhood Association. And recently we had a
meeting. And on the agenda, amongst a number of things,
was to get feedback on the Orbit. Overwhelming support.
There were over 40 -- 42 or 44 attendees at our
neighborhood association meeting. And overwhelming
support for it from the residents. I think that's all I
have to say.

MR. STEVEN GALE: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this meeting. My name is Steven Gale. I have lived in Tempe for 45 years. And I love the Orbit myself. I love it so much I'm trying to get a job as a driver with the Orbit system.

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When my family first heard about the Orbit, we decided we were going to like it because, like, it comes two blocks from where we live. We can board it. Like, I came to the library tonight to check my e-mail, and I found out this meeting was here. So I thought I'd come in and see what's going on. And since everybody is voicing their opinions, I might as well get up and have my say.

So I went to Marcos de Niza High School, and I went to McKemy Junior High, and I went to Evans Elementary. I went to Rural Elementary School. It used to be right there where the Fry's is, but they tore it down and built the shopping center. So I've lived here a long time, and my family, and we all love the Orbit.

And I'd like to see the Orbit expand their services into more buses, get all of the planets out there, because this is not a small city anymore, like the lady said before. This city has grown by leaps and bounds in the 40 years I've lived here. So I'd like to see them extend the service, get more buses, get all the planets out there so they can serve the entire community, and get them to where they can border the other cities that we're boxed in by, Phoenix, Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler. You know? And that's all I have to say. I hope you guys like it as well as I do. Thank

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you very much.

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MR. VICTOR AGAJANIAN: Hello. My name is Victor Agajanian, A-G-A-J-A-N-I-A-N. And I live on 721 East Loyola Drive, which is fairly far from the route.

Philosophically, I'm a big supporter of the public transportation. I've taken the Orbit a couple of times. I don't think, frankly, I'll be a frequent user because I really prefer biking whenever I can, and I bike to work.

And this is not only -- this preference is not philosophical necessarily. It has to do with what I have noticed from my limited experience. It's what I would define irregularity of the schedule. You know, for those of us on tight schedule, when we want to be or need to be at a certain place a certain exact time and we don't want to be late, but at the same time we don't want to be early, it's really important to -- this predictability is really important.

In my past life, I lived in a big city, and when I would go to college, to the university, I'd have to take a bus and then transfer to subway and then walk. And I knew exactly how many minutes I would walk to the bus station, how many minutes I would wait for the bus, how many minutes the bus ride will be to the subway station, how many minutes I will wait in the bus -- at

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the subway station for the train, how many minutes the train ride would take, and so on.

And from my experience, the way it is now, I think that's great form of leisure transportation, and it's important. But I think if it's possible, I would like to see it more predictable, more regular. And if you say 15 minutes, then it should be 15 minutes, say 7:00, 7:15, 7:30. 7:31, I could take. I know we're not in Switzerland or Germany or other places of that sort.

But still again, if you want to really make it useful for people who work and have specific appointments and are on tight schedule, I think it's very important to invest in that part of a wonderful form of transportation. Thank you.

MS. MAUREEN KOBIEROWSKI: Hi. My name's Maureen Kobierowski. It's K-O-B -- as in boy --

I-E-R-O-W-S-K-I. And my husband and I live at 121 East 14th Street, which is just three houses west of College.

We really enjoy the Orbit. We're in full support of it. We have taken it just to go to movie theaters, to go to dinner, downtown Mill Avenue. Every time we have company in town, we have also had them take it.

We also did a kind of an Orbit kickoff with our neighborhood as well. And we had, you know, quite

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an age range, which was great, from ages 25 to 65. And probably had about 14 people go. So this really also brought our neighborhood together. We live in University Park, which Paul Kent was up here and said our neighborhood is in full support of it.

And there was a lot of neighbors that, you know, also weren't able to be at that meeting. And they were all, you know, all the ones that live in our vicinity, we've also only heard really good things about it. I know that there has been a couple of comments in regards to people, you know, riding their bike a little bit less and taking the Orbit a little bit more. But I've still seen a really great amount of bikes and a lot less traffic on College.

And the other thing is in the summer when it's 112 degrees out or in the winter when it's 40 degrees out, my husband and I love to go downtown, but we don't want to drive. It's fantastic to take the Orbit, because I'm not going to be riding my bike when it's that hot outside.

But we just think it's a really great thing, and I just wanted to say that we're definitely in full support of it. And also being close to College Street only three houses away, it's not been a problem for us at all. And we really look forward to keeping it

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around. Thank you.

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MS. ROSEMARY HARTMAN: My name is Rosemary

Hartman, H-A-R-T-M-A-N. And I live at 613 East Balboa

Drive.

And I'd also like to express my support for the Orbit. I really love it. I use it all the time. I go to -- I work at ASU, so it's really helpful to just hop on the Orbit and get to work. And, also, I use it to go downtown. I think I find that I end up going downtown more often because it's so convenient.

And I like the fact -- I love the color. I think the blue is really outstanding. And I also -- I like the fact that you see friends on it. That's kind of nice. I think it's promoting neighborliness, especially since we don't really have front porches anymore. Thanks.

MR. MARK PRY: My name is Mark Pry. That's P -- as in Paul -- R-Y. I live at 315 East Balboa, which is three houses east of College.

I'm very much in support of the Orbit. My wife and I have been using it since the service began.

But I want to speak as one of the neighborhood dog walkers who's been really an observer of the Orbit.

Because I take my dog for two walks a day, one about 7:30, 8:30 every morning and the other around 5:00 to

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6:00 in the evening. And we often walk partly or almost entirely on College. So since the beginning of the service, I've been watching this thing go up and down, and people ride it twice a day almost every day that it's been in service. And it's been very interesting to watch.

And particularly in light of some of the complaints and concerns that were made early on when there was a lot of opposition to routing it on College. One of the things that people were concerned about was that all these people would come into our neighborhood from outside, park in our local streets, and get on the Orbit and ride away. If they're doing it, they're camouflaging their cars very well, because I've seen no evidence in any remarkable way that there are more cars around than there used to be.

If anything, the place where I see that happening is on Mill Avenue and Rural Avenue, where for quite a long time now, every since ASU started offering free bus passes, some students -- but it's only been a tiny number -- have been driving and parking near Mill and getting on the buses that run up there.

Another thing that's been very interesting to see is how the Orbit is helping to tame some of the speeders on College. As all of you who live near

Page 28 -

College know, a lot of the people going to and from ASU really rocket up and down the street, particularly between Alameda and Southern. Well, I can't tell you how many times I've seen an Orbit proceeding at its leisurely pace down College with a whole trail of cars behind it, all of whom quite obviously would be driving much faster if that Orbit wasn't there. And if anything, I think the Orbit actually has -- irregardless of how many cars are there or not there, it's actually helped slow the traffic down some.

There is no doubt that you see people on the streets, particularly in the morning. But I think from what I've been able to see, one of the reasons that people may be congregating in front of the gentleman's house who spoke earlier is because of the "no stop" zone. It's particularly large by Broadmor and McKemy schools. And so, essentially, all the students who want to catch the bus are pushed out to only two stops. So you see a lot of the junior high schoolers are the ones usually waiting for the Orbit in front of that new subdivision. Because that's the closest stop southbound where you're allowed to board.

I personally don't really think the no stop zones make sense. But if they're going to be maintained, I'd like to see them compressed, and they

-Page 29 -

need to be clearly marked. Because early on, I was not picked up. I didn't know about it, and I tried too waive down the Orbit, and he drove right but. And I think at least once a week I see that happen to somebody. Because you have no way of knowing when you approach the signs exactly where the "no stop" zone begins or ends.

But what's really interesting is that when you go out on the street, you walk up and down College now, there are people there. They're getting off the Orbit. They're getting on the Orbit. They're waiting for the Orbit. They talk to each other. They greet each other. There's this definite neighborly feeling that wasn't there before. And I didn't really expect this. I've grown up in cities, been taking the buses off and on my whole life. And I've never seen anything quite like this. And it's really something that even the most hard core supporters, I think, didn't expect to see.

And then when you ride, you meet people you don't know. You talk to them. And I've been noticing a lot of people in our neighborhood going downtown on the Orbit, and many of these people in the past used to say, "Oh, I never go downtown. I don't like to drive. I don't like the traffic. I don't like to pay the

-Page 30 -

parking." And I would guess that the use of downtown
Tempe by residents is increasing significantly because
of the Orbit. A lot of people are going down who used
to think, "Well, maybe we'll go somewhere else where we
don't have to deal with the traffic."

So as the official dog-walker observer of the Orbit on College Avenue, I think it's been nothing but a blessing for the community.

MS. MARGARET YALE: Margaret Yale, Y-A-L-E, 304 Geneva, right down College on Geneva.

Just wanted to let you know that we have noticed a little bit of garbage left when they sit down on the -- there's a little ledge, like a fenced area. And people can sit there, wait for the Orbit, and they tend to leave some garbage. I've cleaned it. So just wanted to let them know that.

Other than that, that's about it. No real complaints. I mean, I've ridden it myself once, and it was fun. And I would like to see them extend the hours for the Gammage people who let them out, because it would be very nice to be able to ride. I was out one time a little bit later, and I walked all the way up to Broadway. And by that time, it had come, but I was on the phone with somebody else and they came to pick me up. So if they can kind of work out a schedule for the

PUBLIC MEETING RE: JUPITER ORBIT NEIGHBORHOOD CIRCULATOR PROGRAM - APRIL 8, 2008 -Page 31 -1 people who get out of Gammage. I don't know what times 2 and so forth, but something to that effect. 3 MR. JORDAN: Okay. Any other takers? I want to thank everyone for sharing their perspectives from all 4 5 sides of the issue. We really appreciate that. Even for those who have concerns, there's always ways to 6 7 pragmatically try to address those, get some solutions. 8 We still have a court reporter outside. If 9 you would feel more comfortable speaking one-on-one, 10 she'll be out there until the end of the meeting. So 11 you can do that as well. 12 With that, we can kind of move to a more general discussion or question-and-answer if that's what 13 14 everybody wants to do, or we can conclude now. It's 15 really up to you. I'll pull a chair up. 16 (Whereupon, a discussion off the record was 17 had.) 18 (The proceedings concluded at 7:49 p.m.) 19 20 21 22 23 24

25

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(Whereupon, the following public comments
 1
 2
    were held outside the general meeting, commencing at
 3
    6:06 p.m.:)
                   MS. WHITE: I'm Volnee White. I live in
 4
 5
    the University Heights Neighborhood. And there was a
 6
    neighborhood meeting last week, and it was brought up as a
    comment on it, and apparently someone had asked if -- what
 7
    the neighborhood thought of it. And about the 40 people
 8
 9
    who were there unanimously agreed that it was -- it was
    not a negative voice about it. And I wanted to pass that
1.0
11
    on.
        Maybe other people who will be here tonight to do
12
    that.
13
                   But I have ridden it. I have ridden both
    the Jupiter, forward and backward; and the one that goes
14
15
    out to the mall, the new mall, which I think is Earth
    Orbiter, and found them delightful, and the people who
16
17
    drive them absolutely the most pleasant, kind people
18
    ever.
19
                   MR. WHITE: I'm Ed White. I live on
    14th Street. And I just think it's terrific. It really
20
   makes the whole community seem like it's in the
21
22
   21st Century. And I just think, again, it's an excellent,
23
   excellent service.
24
                   MS. WHITE: And he's a biker, so he enjoys
25
   the parts that he can put his bike on if he gets tired.
```

```
1
                   I don't know if it has anything to do with
 2
    it or not, but what I have found on it, it gives me 20 to
 3
    30 minutes to read.
 4
                   MR. STRANG: David Strang. I'm a strong
 5
    supporter of Jupiter. I've used it -- I've lost track of
    how many times -- going downtown for lunch, go to meetings
 6
    downtown. It's been prompt 99 percent of the time. And I
 7
    believe it adds a great deal to our community.
 9
                   And I did some checking, and I'm thrilled
10
    to death it appears, to last month, close to 44,000 people
    boarded. And I think that's extremely promising.
11
                   MR. JOHNSON: Pen Johnson. 333 East
12
    15th Street.
13
14
                   Basically I'm a big supporter of the Orbit
1.5
    Jupiter. I think it's a great thing to have for the
16
   neighborhood. I have seen nothing but positive results,
17
    so far. I've been riding it and find it convenient. I
18
    quess that's about it.
19
                   MR. HERING: My name is Larry Hering,
   H-E-R-I-N-G, 2003 East LaJolla, L-A J-O-L-L-A, Drive,
20
    Tempe, 85282.
21
22
                   I'm just going to preface this by outlining
23
   eight or nine different areas of concern.
24
                   First thing is I'd like to see published,
```

to the citizens of the City of Tempe, the cost per

25

1 passenger mile for the Orbit Mars bus to operate.

2 From my perspective, I live right off of

3 | Country Club Way. It has devaluated my property value.

4 There is noise created by these buses. They're brand new

5 and they're already beginning to rattle. So I hear a box

6 bus rattling down the street. And it goes by my home at

7 | least every five to ten minutes.

8

9

10

11

12

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16

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19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Delieve there's additional danger that's being created by the bus. For example, I live off of Country Club Way. And there's cars on both sides of the street on Country Club Way now, because the City of Tempe has elected to turn the city of Tempe -- has elected to turn the city into dorms for ASU students. So we have four and five cars per house.

And just north or just south of Southern and north of the school, off of Country Club Way, we have at least four or five homes that have three to five cars per home. Those cars, when parked on the street, create a hazard with -- when you add the bus because the bus is going between them and you're trying to back out all at the same time and it creates an obvious danger.

We find that kids from the Ward School,
12 year olds get on the bus, ride it one block, and get
off at their home on Country Club, which seems to be
absurd to us.

```
1
                    I have watched the bus for several months
 2
    now, from a capacity standpoint, and very seldom find it
 3
    at 10 percent capacity. And late in the evenings, 9:00
 4
    and 10:00 at night, you're lucky to see one, two, or three
 5
    people, ever, on it.
 6
                    In conclusion, I'm in the Orbit Mars area.
 7
    And while I did miss one meeting, there were no other
 8
    meetings ever sent to my home, nor to my neighbors, after
    I've contacted my neighbors, questioning them of that
10
    fact. And I've now arrived at the Orbit Jupiter
11
    neighborhood meeting, finding that the Orbit Mars meeting
12
    has already been -- or was supposedly conducted, which I
    had no knowledge of, in the past, and Orbit Mars has been
13
14
   approved.
15
                   And the input tonight for Orbit Jupiter is
16
    strictly by a court reporter, which is what I have just
17
   done.
18
                   Thank you for your time.
19
                   MR. KILE: Bill Kile, K-I-L-E, 3716 South
20
   Country Club Way.
21
                   I agree 100 percent with Larry Hering,
   which is the neighbor. I'm concerned about the expense of
22
23
   the vehicle, the wages on holidays, and 12-hour days of
24
   driving this bus, and the -- the roads -- the wear and
25
   tear on our streets, and our taxes -- what it's doing for
```

```
our taxes to operate this type of situation. That's all.
 1
 2
                   MR. CAVES: Randy Caves, C-A-V-E-S, 1959
 3
   East LaJolla Drive, Tempe, 85282.
 4
                   Basically, the same concern. This is the
 5
   first circular I've ever gotten. I've lived in my home
   for nine years. Was not aware that our little bus even
 6
   had a name. So same as the other gentleman, low occupancy
 7
   or low ridership on the buses that I see around my
 Я
   neighborhood, the increased volume of traffic it brings,
 9
10
   and/or two-lane streets.
11
                   And the bus driver takes their breaks
12
   because there's nobody on the bus. So they're sitting
13
   there for five minutes, idling away -- never seen them
14
   turn off their buses. My tax dollars -- especially on
15
   this route -- I don't know about any other routes -- is
16
   not being well spent. Wear and tear on the roads,
   increased traffic.
17
                   And I think it's just a general hazard with
18
   nobody riding on it, considering one block over you have
19
20
   the main bus line going pretty much the same way it's
21
   going.
22
                   And I was talking to Carlos. He said make
23
   sure you have my -- and my phone number -- he wanted my
   phone number. It's (602) 571-1609. I would like to be
24
25
   notified of the next transportation commission meeting or
```

7 committee meeting -- that is supposed to be held on 2 May 13th -- because I'd like to attend that and address my 3 grievances then too. 4 MS. LaMANTIE: Gloria LaMantie, L-a-M-a-n-t-i-e. I would like to be notified of that 5 6 meeting on May 13th also. 7 1128 East Malibu Drive. (480) 839-9100. 8 I'm concerned because my understanding was 9 that this service was at the bus stops. And I was with 10 two students at the Terrace and Southern bus stop, and two 11 Orbits went by, and we were waving. And when we got to 12 the Tempe Library, they said that they don't have to stop if it's a traffic hazard. 13 14 And I said, But it's a bus stop. 15 And they said -- and this was at 7 p.m. at 16 night, so there was not like any backup of the traffic or 17 anything. The drivers were very argumentative. And there 18 was another person on the particular one we were on. 19 he was having questions and he was getting angry. And the bus driver had no knowledge of how to de-escalate someone 20 21 who is in anger mode. 22 And I don't know what kind of training they have, but we would -- I experienced only two, this was my 23

first time. And I've experienced two different drivers

and I would say that they were not professional.

24

25

```
1
                   They also told me that at the bus stop,
 2
    unless it's actually signed with a sign that says that it
 3
    has the Orbit service, that they don't have to stop
 4
    there. And that was not my understanding.
 5
                   And so -- and I'm also interested, unless I
 6
    can't understand this map correctly, why there isn't any
 7
    service to the new Tempe Cultural Center, which is
    basically at Hardy and Rio Salado. I don't see any -- so
 8
 9
    I don't know if I can't read the map right or not.
10
                   So to me, you know, one of the things I was
11
    interested in is going in the evenings to the different
12
    cultural activities. And so I'm disappointed that that's
    not one of the main things and there's no service there.
13
14
                   MS. HERING: Hanne Hering, H-a-n-n-e. I
15
    live off of Country Club Way and LaJolla. I'm in the Mars
16
   area.
17
                   I just wanted to say that, you know, I
18
    think it's a good program, but I think it needs to be put
19
   in an area where there's a lot of population.
20
                   This is a residential home area.
   people are a little older. There is not -- you know, they
21
   have to bus kids in toward -- and then there's a few kids
22
23
   that -- that catch the Mars bus to go to their home.
24
                   There's a bus driver that guns -- guns it,
25
   you know? And to me, that's more gas.
```

They go seven days a week, on holidays. So 1 we don't even have a peaceful holiday because they're just 2 3 whizzing on by. I think it would best suit -- because we're 4 on a dead end, it would best suit an area for where 5 there's condos or apartment houses or something; where there's younger people that, you know, want -- need to go 7 different places and they don't want to drive their cars 8 or whatever it is -- you know, where there's a lot of 9 10 intense population. 11 And in our area there's, you know, I do truly believe that the people in the middle of the block, 12 they have no clue that this is even going on. 13 I don't see elderly people walking to go to 14 Country Club Way, waiting to get on this bus. I see a lot 15 of real young kids using this bus, which I think is --16 17 is -- it's not right, as far as I'm concerned. And like I said, Ward School has four big, 18 huge buses that look like they're the size of a football 19 field. And if those kids can't walk a block and a half to 20 their homes from Ward, then they should get on the school 21 bus and let the school, you know, take them to their 22 homes, instead of this Orbit bus that goes around and 23 around and around. 24

25

And if there are a lot of people that are

- going on it, I don't know where they're at, because when 1 they're going past my house, I see one or two or three 2 3 people all day long. And that's about it. And maybe two 4 or three in the evening. 5 And the pollution is terrible, you know? You've got the pollution. You've got the smell on these 6 7 buses. I think it's a great idea. But I think 8 9 it's the wrong area. And it just kind of goes around in a circle and there's just hardly anyone on it at all. 10 That's all I have to say. 11 MR. DASE: Larry Dase, D-A-S-E. 342 East 12 Concorda Drive, C-O-N-C-O-R-D-A -- live right off of 13 14 College. 15 So we -- my wife and I walk down and catch the Jupiter bus to go to Gammage in Downtown Tempe, and 16 take the other way to the library and the grocery store 17 and the drugstore and all of that. I think it's great, we 18 love it. And I hope it keeps coming up and down College. 19 20 We have a friend who lives in Tucson who has macular degeneration, and he rode it with us in 21 22
 - January. And he made the comment that he'd like to, when he retires in a few years, move up to our neighborhood, primarily because of these neighborhood-circulated buses, because he said, you know, once he's blind, sitting in his

24

25

- 1 neighborhood in Tucson, he has nothing. He'd have to pay somebody to drive him, but here he can have a life and get 2 around, and you know, enjoy retirement a little bit. 3 So I think it's fantastic. Strongly in 4 favor of keeping it on College. 5 MR. SCHMIDT: Leo Schmidt, S-C-H-M-I-D-T. 6 The sound is not that great in there, and with my hearing 7 aids -- and some of the other people are going like that 8 9 also. Now, who do we need to talk to, to maybe 10 get the Orbit route expanded? Maybe I can talk to Greq in 11 there, and see who we need to about expanding one of the 12 13 routes. We've got a two block area on Rivera, from 14 Newbury -- from Kenneth to Banarton. And on that street 15 we've got two blind people. We've got maybe, oh, at least 16 15, 18 retired people. Some of them can't drive anymore. 17 Some of them are still driving and shouldn't be driving. 18 And I think it would be kind of nice if 19 they could maybe somehow expand that route from Laguna, 20 down Oak, to Hermosa, and then jog in there and get the 21 two blocks on Rivera, and then back out on Rural or 22 Southern. 23 MR. SWIFT: Aaron Swift, S-W-I-F-T. 24
 - WWW.GRIFFINREPORTERS.COM GRIFFIN & ASSOCIATES - 602.264.2230

1221 East Broadmore.

25

```
I would like the Orbit to run later,
1
   especially on the weekends, until 2 or 3 o'clock in the
2
   morning, but run less frequently there. So run later, but
3
   less frequently.
4
                   MS. WINKLER: Roxie, R-O-X-I-E, Winkler,
5
   W-I-N-K-L-E-R. 719 East LaJolla Drive, Tempe.
6
                   Bill and I, my husband, we just love the
7
8
   bus and we want to see it stay around. We don't want it
   to leave. We've ridden it. We haven't ridden as much as
9
   some of the other people, but we will be riding it more
10
   and we certainly do like it.
11
                   MR. WINKLER: Oh, and how. It's wonderful.
12
13
                   MS. WINKLER: Thank you, very much.
                   DR. WILT: My name is Dr. Glenn Wilt, Jr.
14
   I live at 1630 South College Avenue in Tempe, directly
15
   across the Daley Park.
16
                   I am the longest tenured faculty member in
17
   the School of Business at ASU. I've been there 45 years.
18
19
   And the Orbit is the first thing, I think, that has been
   happening in the City of Tempe that I just totally approve
20
21
   of. I'm very used to finding the bus.
                   And the only complaint that I have about it
22
   is that sometimes it comes 30 seconds after I arrive at
23
    the bus stop, so I haven't had to wait hardly at all.
24
25
                   I have been very pleased with the service.
```

- The bus drivers are friendly. And I've encouraged my 1 fellow professors and students, who have gotten back to me 2 with their positive responses, to take the bus. 3 Everybody that I've ever come across has 4 been pleased with the service and the extent to which they 5 can go throughout the city of Tempe, in places that they 6 have hardly ever visited. And I say this from an economic 7 8 standpoint, as a concluding remark, with the gas approaching four dollars per gallon, this is an wonderful 9 economic event for the citizens of Tempe. 10 MR. GALE: My name is Steve Gale, G-A-L-E. 11 307 East Hermosa Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85282-5316. Been 12 13 there 45 years. My mom and dad bought the house. My mom 14 died a few years ago. My dad's still alive and 15 unfortunately at 50 years old, I still live at home. I've 16 been through -- I've had a rough-life. I've had three 17 marriages, lost one wife, lost a daughter, raised six 1.8 19 kids. So anyway, I spoke earlier about liking the 20 Orbit because -- I like it so well I just want to become a 21 driver for it. I did drive for Mesa Unified School 22 District for 11 months. 23 And I wanted to tell him that they can put 24
- 25 GPS systems in the Orbit buses -- because I used to also

```
1 drive for Swift Transportation for three months, and we
 2
   had GPS systems and satellite systems in our
 3
    tractor-trailers. So I just wanted to make that comment.
    I can't tell you the cost because I'm not good when it
    comes to financial stuff. But I know it can be done.
 5
                   So just find a place -- and in our
 6
    tractor-trailers -- in our tractors, we had a storage
 7
    space that was just extra storage space. They put the
 8
   satellite thing there. And we had a gear-master thing up
 9
   here on our dashboard to tell us if we went into overspeed
10
    or how many times our door opened and all kinds of
11
    information.
12
                   This is a good thing for the community and
13
14
   we need to keep it going.
                    (The comments held outside the general
15
16
   meeting concluded at 7:49 p.m.)
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1	Page 40
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